

VZCZCXYZ0009
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSO #0204 1131438
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 221438Z APR 08
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8151
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9282
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8683
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 3060

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000204

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: PARAGUAY, PRESIDENTIAL
AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS; SCO PAULO

One More

Column by Eliane Cantanhede in liberal Folha de S.Paulo (4/22) states: "A union leader in Brazil, a true Indian in Bolivia, a nationalist colonel with leftist leanings in Venezuela and, now, a former bishop in Paraguay. ... For centuries, the elites [in South America] failed to promote development, real independence and, most of all, social equality. In the 2000's, alternatives are sought... . The political leadership of President-elect Fernando Lugo was formed, in theory, by the Liberation Theology and, in practice, by years of close relationship with the misery facing South America's second poorest country... . [He] Inherited a broken economy, excessive dependency on Itaipu, sweeping corruption and contraband practiced in plain view... . The former-bishop...indicated that he tends to balance a conciliatory spirit with the need for tension, provocation and even transgression against old habits in order to manage a country in desperate need of reforms, especially in its political culture."

Latin America

Article in liberal Folha de S.Paulo(4/22) states: "Fernando Lugo's victory in Paraguay closes a wide cycle of changes in governments of Latin America. Party-machines and dictatorships that lasted for decades were ousted in the last 25 years... . The situation nowadays is one of deep divide in many countries... . Paraguay will probably join the list... . Brazil [is seen] as an exception, as it is considered a 'sensible' leftist government... . Lula chose to work with traditional political forces... . In the countries that are deeply divided today, the opposite happened... . It is hard to tell which path is the least harmful to democracy and to the establishment of standards of income distribution that are decent at a minimum. But to be able to leave behind dictatorships and one-party systems is a great progress."
Lugo's Victory

Liberal Folha de S.Paulo (4/22) editorializes: "Endorsed by a myriad of multiple-endencies parties, opposition candidate [Fernando] Lugo was the depository of frustrations and the warring and tearing accumulated throughout the Colorado [party] mandate, marked by corruption, instability, political violence and administrative inefficiency... . All of this social uneasiness was not blamed only on the 61-year rule of the Colorado Party. Brazil is also being blamed, accused of ripping Paraguay off, especially in the 1973 Itaipu Treaty... . Lugo may ask whatever he wants, but he knows that the chances that Brazil will modify the treaty are dim."
White